



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
GROWTH ENGINE
FOR MEMPHIS & SHELBY COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media contacts:

Trey Heath/Garrett Guynes

901-341-2104

theath@growth-engine.org

EDGE, Mayors to Announce Economic Gardening Expansion

(May 13, 2014- Memphis, TENN.) Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., City of Memphis Mayor A C Wharton, Jr., and the Economic Development Growth Engine (EDGE) are announcing the expansion of the Economic Gardening program at a May 13 reception.

Joining the mayors will be alumni of the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Emerging Leaders Program (EL) and the Edward Lowe Foundation's Economic Gardening program (EG), which teamed up this past year to support more than 100 small businesses.

The EL program is an SBA initiative that provides business owners whose companies have at least \$400,000 in annual revenue with an organizational framework and resource network that encourages growth.

The EG program helps bolster local businesses that earn at least \$700,000 in annual revenue and have between seven and 99 employees. It provides strategic advisory services over a four to six-week period, customized for each business owner.

These EDGE-supported programs will be used in tandem with EDGE's five financing tools that provide \$25,000 to \$10 million in financing for local small businesses.

This invitation-only reception will be held Tuesday, May 13, from 4-6 p.m., at the Memphis Botanic Garden. Please let us know if you or a representative will be attending. We look forward to working with you regarding this important economic development initiative.

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